

## REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

The Section is pleased to report that the Ornithological Department of the Museum is in excellent condition as regards the preservation of the specimens, and to note important progress in the work of renovating the collection on the plans outlined in a previous report.

The question having arisen as to the policy of remounting the type specimens and duplicates unnecessary for display, as has been the custom during the past two years, the Conservator consulted several of the leading ornithologists of the world and obtained their unqualified endorsement of the plans for the renovation of the collection recommended by the Section and adopted by the Curators.

In view of the endorsement of R. Bowdler Sharpe, Robert Ridgway, and other high authorities we feel fully justified in the course we have pursued and are convinced that the proper preservation of our collection of birds is absolutely dependent upon the continuance of the treatment that we have already outlined.

Owing to the miscellaneous duties of the Conservator in his position as Assistant to the Board of Curators, his work on the ornithological collection was mainly restricted to the summer months. At this time, also, the Academy's taxidermist, Mr. David N. McCadden, was enabled to devote his entire time to this department, and with the further valuable assistance of Messrs. Howard Y. Pennell and Henry W. Fowler, it was possible to make greater progress with the work of renovation than in any previous year.

In all 5,907 mounted specimens were examined, catalogued, and labelled, and then remounted or reduced to skins as the circumstances warranted. These included the Ciconiidae, Gruidae, Limicolae, Gallinae, Columbæ, Dendrocolaptidae, Formicariidae, Paridae, Bucerotidae, and part of the Fringillidae. In addition specimens of the Corvidae, Paradisæidae, Icteridae, and Tanageridae which had previously been catalogued were remounted for exhibition. Several temporary lists were also copied into the regular catalogue during the year aggregating 7,029 entries, while all the accessions have been labelled and placed in the proper places. The entire study series of American birds has been carefully examined and found to be in excellent condition.

The principal accessions during the year have been small collections from Lower California, California, and Florida, received in

exchange or by purchase, and also numerous specimens from the Zoological Society of Philadelphia, among which may be mentioned specimens of *Struthio molybdophanes* and *Dromius irroratus*.

The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club has added many attractive groups to the collection of Pennsylvania and New Jersey birds which is rapidly approaching completion.

At the annual meeting of the Section held December 17, 1894, the following officers were elected:—

<i>Director,</i>	. . . . .	Dr. Spencer Trotter.
<i>Vice-Director,</i>	. . . . .	Geo. S. Morris.
<i>Recorder,</i>	. . . . .	Stewardson Brown.
<i>Secretary,</i>	. . . . .	Chas. E. Ridenour.
<i>Treasurer and Conservator,</i>	. . . . .	Witmer Stone.

Respectfully submitted,

WITMER STONE,

*Conservator.*

## REPORT OF THE PROFESSOR OF INVERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY.

The Professor of Invertebrate Paleontology respectfully reports that, as heretofore, he has delivered his regular spring courses of lectures, twenty-five in number, the attendance at which has been larger than in any previous year. These lectures, embracing in great part the physiographic features of the region about Philadelphia, were supplemented by weekly field parties, and by two special summer class excursions: one to the region of the Shawangunk and Delaware Mountains, the other to the Bermuda Islands. On the first of these excursions the methods of topographical surveying were practically demonstrated in addition to the regular work in geology and paleontology. Two new fossil-bearing localities in the Trias were discovered in the course of the spring excursions.

The collections in the department of Invertebrate Paleontology have not been materially augmented during the year, nor has their condition been very greatly changed. Much has been done toward determining and redetermining unidentified or doubtful forms, and from many specimens hitherto unofficially labelled—*i. e.*, not